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Give a

PUERTO RICO PARTY

IN YOUR CHURCH

A MAGAZINE FOR

The Missionary Education Committee of Your Church

ENVELOPE SERIES

Issued by
The Committee on Missionary Education in the Local Church of the Missions Council of Congregational Christian Churches
Editor: Ruth Isabel Seabury, *Educational Secretary*

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READER:

Wouldn't you like to give a Puerto Rico party? Many churches had such fun with the Micronesia Anniversary project that they have been asking ever since when we could have another. So here it is.

The Committee on Missionary Education in the Local Church recommended that the next one should be related to the Spanish American theme and decided to make vivid our work in Puerto Rico, that needy field "on our own doorstep."

Many people have helped us with this number. We are particularly indebted to Dr. Jane Spragg, the wife of Howard Spragg, Director of our Puerto Rico work, who has written up not only the major article but the presentation of songs and games and the recipes to give us some really delicious refreshments. Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua, the Superintendent of the work in Puerto Rico, collected the biographical material used in the last three "toasts," and the first two were contributed by recent visitors who took "The Puerto Rico Tour" under the Board of Home Missions and the Missions Council this past year. To help answer questions often asked we have included the short bit "We are not alone," below.

We hope you will do at least two things—first, we hope you will *have one program some time this winter* about Puerto Rico, using as many of the interesting items of this number as you can. It might be a Church Night Dinner, with a children's feature before it, perhaps. Or it might be a Sunday Evening Service in the hands of the Young People. Or it might be a special afternoon and evening program in which every group of the Church School might have a feature, or every organization of the Church. Or it might be under the auspices of the Women's Organization. (See Program Suggestions, page 5.)

In addition to giving a program, we hope you will like the idea of doing something "all together for Puerto Rico." On page

48 you will see suggestions. We would like our friends in Puerto Rico to feel we have a real interest in them expressed through these parties given all over the United States.

We would be very grateful if you would drop a post card to us telling what you have done.

We think it would be fun if you would send an Easter card with greetings for the churches in Puerto Rico to Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua, the Superintendent there.*

Yours for new Friendships in Christ.

RUTH ISABEL SEABURY

WE ARE NOT ALONE IN PUERTO RICO†

"Properly, of course, Puerto Rico is not a *mission* field; the Roman Catholic Church has been here for 400 years. That church has followed the traditional program of Spanish Catholicism, with the Mass at the center. . . . While we have no desire to be critical or intolerant of Catholicism here, it must be said, in the interests of truth, that the Roman Catholic Church in Puerto Rico, in spite of its presence on the ground for four centuries and more, has left the land and the people ignorant, unhealthy, and poverty-stricken. Puerto Rico is not so much Catholic as it is atheistic and superstitious.

"The (Protestant) missionaries represent all the major denominations of Protestantism, and many of the minor. They have been at work since 1899 building churches, organizing Sunday schools, baptizing, marrying, burying. They have built good schools, from kindergarten to college. The Presbyterians (U.S.A.) established the only accredited "A.B." college in the West Indies in their famous Polytechnic Institute; from it have come some of the finest leaders of Puerto Rico. . .

"Working together in the Evangelical Association of Puerto Rico are six of the strongest Protestant denominations: Presbyterians, United Brethren, and Congregational Christians, Methodists, Disciples of Christ, and Northern Baptists. Together, they support work in government institutions, sanitariums, the penitentiary, the leper colony, the insane asylum; they provide for a university pastor who does his best to care for the spiritual needs of eight thousand students; they sponsor a church publication—*one* publication for all of them, and a good one."

* Address, Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua, Ryder Memorial Hospital, Humacao, Puerto Rico.

† Extracts from "On Our Own Doorstep" by Frank Meade, see page 52.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR A PUERTO RICO PARTY

"You mean Puerto *Rican* Party, don't you?" you ask hopefully. "No, we mean Puerto Rico Party."

"How's that? It isn't good grammar is it?"

"You see the meaning is different. A Puerto Rican Party would be a party the way the Puerto Ricans do it, but this is a party *about* Puerto Rico or *for the benefit* of Puerto Rico."

"Oh, I get it. It's in plain English and not Spanish and it introduces these people, is that it?"

"Yes, and one thing more. We hope it means *doing something for* Puerto Rico."

"Good, I'm all for it. Put on a program. Plan a gift. Go on, tell us how."

In the following pages we have outlined five types of program to suit five different types of occasion in a local church. It is, of course, possible to mix them, but it is easier to see the "how" if we put it in specific terms for the following occasions:

A Church Night Dinner; A Young Peoples' Sunday Night Party; An After-School Party for Children; A Woman's Luncheon or Tea; A "Sewing Bee"

We have provided sufficient material to do all five of these in a minimum way at least. On page 52 we have indicated Supplementary Material which might be substituted at will for these suggestions. Each one of the programs has a "Special Feature" which contains the major presentation about Puerto Rico. These features could be quite easily interchanged.

We have also in each indicated a place for dedicating gifts of Friendly Service for Puerto Rico or for taking an offering. In Number 5 we have planned the whole program around the Friendly Service Feature. In any case, be sure to make an important place in the program for this gift for Puerto Rico.

1. For a Church Night Dinner

Special Menu with Puerto Rican Dishes, see page 12
Decorations: Place Mats, The Puerto Rico Map, see page 52
Toasts: Three or four speeches using the talks, page 29
Table Singing: The Fun Songs, see page 16
Special Feature: "Two Hearts for Puerto Rico"—A Dramatic Skit, see page 36
Alternative: The Filmstrip, see page 52
What Can We Do for our Puerto Rico Friends? see page 48
The Doxology in Spanish
Closing Hymn: "In Christ There is No East or West"

Do not be afraid to try a special menu, using some of the recipes provided. However, it will be perfectly possible to use your own recipes for "Chicken with Rice" and a Coconut Custard dessert or other adaptations suggested by Mrs. Spragg in connection with the recipes. If possible, make a little souvenir menu and program on your church mimeograph. You can easily trace in on the stencil the little figures given in this issue.

In addition to the place mats, which will in themselves provide a nice decoration, a centerpiece of fruit could be used, or better still find out how many people have Spanish American items in their homes which might add to the local color of this Spanish American theme. They will not all fit Puerto Rico but it will be easy for the Toastmaster to indicate that the Puerto Rico Party is a feature of the Spanish American theme. Or use the Wright Studio material (see page 52). Good posters can be used for decoration and the local railroad and airline offices will often supply them, or original ones can be made using the figures, palm trees, etc., cut from magazine advertisements in gay color.

The Young People may take charge of learning and leading the fun songs in Spanish and they may also produce the skit, following the instructions given by Miss Warner that this skit is to be done *without rehearsal and without real staging*.

If there is a special committee for the Church Night Dinner they will easily find a Toastmaster who will become familiar with the material on pages 20-28 so as to introduce each item easily, especially the speakers who will "toast" Puerto Rico and give a real zest to the occasion.

Choose a person with real enthusiasm also to present the call for Friendly Service (see page 48) under "What Can We Do to Help Puerto Rico?"

For Young People

If you are able to plan a "Sit-down Supper," the map place mats will be good as decoration. Plan according to whether you are to have an elaborate or simple occasion. Read the suggestions for the Church Night Dinner on the previous page and the Supplementary Material page for further decoration suggestions. It would be nice to have a mimeographed program if the occasion warrants it; for example, if you are entertaining another group or having a really special party, you will use these items which will be more work but more fun. The program, mimeographed with decorations traced from this pamphlet, can include, of course, the Fun Songs and the Hymns.

The short talks to be done by the members of the group themselves should be kept quite short. The descriptive material under "Games and Songs" can be used here and the Toasts. Or Mrs. Spragg's excellent account may be broken up, part of it used by the leader, and shorter talks made of the rest.

Use the skit following Miss Warner's directions for doing it as a *Reading Play* without props and staging, but the Leader should prepare the audience for that fact. Have a committee of two or three young people to give the Call for Gifts. If you are going to dedicate gifts previously collected, bring up the gifts, sing the Doxology and have a little Prayer of Dedication.

Adapt the order here indicated: some groups might find it fun to do the games right in the middle of the program and have the fun songs then; others may prefer to follow their usual Sunday night custom of having the more serious part of the program first and recreation afterward. Refreshments might come between, or at the very close.

And speaking of food, Mrs. Spragg has given us some good suggestions for refreshments: The pudding (coconut cream), or the meat cakes (Pastelios) would prove to be more substantial items. If there is to be a real meal, the "Rice and Beans" or "Chicken and Rice," topped off with bananas might be provided. The Puerto Ricans, both young and old, drink coffee but presumably "Cokes"

2. A Young People's Party

Special Refreshments, see page 12
Special Decorations
Fun Songs and Recreation, page 16
Feature—The skit—"Two Hearts for Puerto Rico," see page 36
Alternative Feature—The Filmstrip, see page 52
Short Talks—By Four Members, see page 29
What Can We Do for Puerto Rico? see page 48
Dedication or Call for Gifts

3. After-School Party for Children

Refreshments — bananas, coconut cakes, punch
Special Decorations
Stories about Puerto Rico
Fun Songs and Games, see page 16
Special Feature: Filmstrip, see page 52
Alternate—Dramatize "New Friends for Nena" see page 35
What Can We Do for Puerto Rico? —A presentation by the leader and children, see page 48
Closing Worship Service (with dedication of gifts)

which are becoming universal could be used. If only light refreshments are to be served it could be bananas and candied fruits, or if some of the girls would like to try them, the confections made from "Guava."

For Children

The children will be more delighted with the program and refreshments than decorations! However, if they are inviting guests they will enjoy decorating for others. See the suggestions related to the Church Night Dinner for the possibilities. I recently attended an "After School Party" for children where there was a wonderful exhibit gathered from the whole community. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing it to other people. This would probably have to be on the whole Spanish American theme. Many of our American people have visited Mexico, the Caribbean Islands and the Southwest area of the United States and have treasures that could be loaned for such an exhibit. If there are to be guests the children will enjoy preparing the Diorama suggested on page 52 in the Supplementary List and there are other suggestions of decorations.

If there are to be many children at this party the suggestions for food given on page 12 are probably too complicated and too adult, but bananas, coconut cakes or candy, nuts, fruit punch or Coca Cola will be fairly typical, at least in a symbolic way, and very acceptable.

A Special Choir of boys and girls may learn the more serious songs and teach everybody the Fun Songs using the blackboard for the purpose.

The Story of Juana, page 25, will be a wonderful story to use in the children's program. In addition, parts of "New Friends for Nena" might be used as a story, or better still, it could be dramatized. See page 35.

For the children, one of the main features would naturally be "What Can We Do to Help Puerto Rico?" The suggestions on page 48 are all attractive to children. If it is announced the week previously in the Sun-

day school and the appeal given there everyone will bring a present for Puerto Rico, and some child should have the privilege of telling where the gifts are going.

After the gifts have been presented it will be a natural time for a short Worship Service. Let one of the children read the paragraphs on pages 21 to 23, as a meditation.* Let the Special Choir sing the Doxology in the Spanish language and the last verse of "Holy, Holy, Holy." After a short period of prayer (which might be sentence prayers for Puerto Rican friends by many children, or a carefully prepared prayer given by one) close with the singing together by everybody of "In Christ There is No East or West."

For Women

For either Luncheon or Tea, follow suggestions under Church Night Dinner, and in the Supplementary Material for decorations. In the case of a luncheon the place mats will be very effective and useful later in the program.

Refreshments: For the luncheon "Rice and Beans," "Fried Bananas" and a salad which includes avocado with greens will provide a delicious meal. If there is to be a dessert it could be a Coconut Cream Pudding or coconut cakes. If the fried bananas are not used as a main dish, cut up bananas with coconut on the top or sliced oranges with grated coconut will be excellent dessert. Puerto Ricans use coffee as a beverage. For an afternoon tea (or coffee) it would be fun to try the guava paste, "Dulce de Guyava," with cheese; candied fruit would also provide a Puerto Rican feature. For a real splurge at the afternoon tea try the "Pastelios" with coffee, a real treat.

If you have a group of

4. A Woman's Luncheon or Tea

Special Puerto Rican Dishes, see page 12
Decorations for the Party, see page 52
Music Features, see page 16
Special Feature: Celebrity Hour—"Jane Spragg Reports"—see page 21
Several Short Talks, see page 29
What Can We Do to Help Puerto Rico—A presentation—see page 48
Offering or Dedication of Gifts
Closing Prayer

* Cut somewhat and simplify.

women (Mothers Quartet, or whatever), they may like to try singing some special Spanish songs. Or you may simply prepare "Holy, Holy, Holy," and the Doxology to be used as a blessing or in the dedication service, using the Spanish tongue first, then letting the whole group sing the English words.

At a luncheon or tea it is quite the thing to introduce "Celebrities." Your pastor may like to impersonate Joe Bevilacqua or you may be able to bring in the three gentlemen whose biographies are given in the "Toasts" pages 29 to 35. Or you could have Jane Spragg as *the Celebrity*. We have given her life sketch along with her write-up. If you "introduce" her, giving the biographical material, then let some one of your able women impersonate Jane and give the excellent material in her article. Another possibility would be to have Mrs. Hook, the wife of the Superintendent of Washington, Mrs. Ekdahl of Massachusetts, and Jane Spragg, all three speak, the first two briefly, the last at more length, using their words here printed.

This year we have a black and white **Filmstrip** called "We Are All One." This is free and it presents the Spanish American theme, including Spanish speaking peoples in the Southwest, those in New York City, and the people in Puerto Rico, in each case, of course, including what we as a church are responsible for doing. The entire film might be used, or the brief portion of it (28 frames) which presents Puerto Rico. It would make excellent illustrations for Jane Spragg's report.

Work out the closing portion of this meeting in terms of "What We Can Do." A good finale will be the presentation of gifts and the singing of the Doxology, the choir doing it first in Spanish, and at the end the use of the hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West."

For Work—Or the "Sewing Bee"

This idea is a Work Party! Some preparation should be made ahead of time by a carefully chosen committee. At a previous meeting of the women's group they will issue a call attractively planned and worded and perhaps accompanied by posters which will carry some of the designs used in ENVELOPE SERIES and will be posted as a reminder in the period before the program.

A committee should also plan which items among the many suggestions offered under "What Can We Do to Help Puerto Rico" they will select to work at during the program. They will also provide the materials needed, so that everything will be ready for immediate action at the work party.

5. A Sewing Bee

Presentation of the Need, see page 48
Planning and Starting the Work, see page 49
Special Feature: "Jane Spragg Reports"—A reading—see page 21
Alternate Suggestion. Several short speeches, see page 29
Closing Service of Dedication and Blessing
Refreshments—see page 12

After the women have chosen their work and are launched upon it provide a running, interesting and peppy "Information Service." You might bring in Jane Spragg (impersonated by one of your members) and let her give in her own words the material in the article "Jane Spragg Reports." Or someone who is a good reader may read the article to the women as they work. If it is more desirable to use several voices and shorter items, use the Toasts, and "Jane Spragg Reports" letting the readers select the parts they would like to give.

At the end of the period dedicate the work and ask God's blessing upon the churches in Puerto Rico and our fellow workers there, in Christ's name. And if the women are singers, sing "In Christ There Is No East or West" as a closing.

It would be nice to serve special refreshments. These might be candied fruits, coconut dainties of one sort or another, or if someone is really ambitious the Guava Paste described on page 14, accompanied with coffee, or even more elaborate, the "Pastelios," which are delicious!

PUERTO RICAN RECIPES

(The following recipes are for typical Puerto Rican dishes but adapted to the American kitchen.)

SOUP

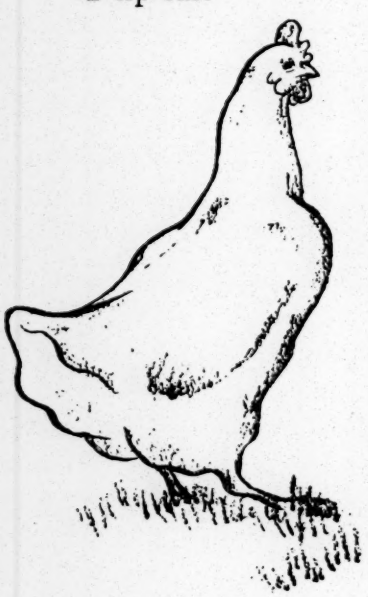
Every proper Puerto Rican meal begins with a substantial soup. This is made with either beef or chicken stock and differs from our soups only in being perhaps more hearty. It contains rather large pieces of yellow and white vegetables and always a few very thin noodles.

ARROS CON POLLO

(Rice with chicken)

This is one of the most typical Puerto Rican dishes.

1 chicken
Parsley
½c cooking oil
¾ pound rice
2 tsp salt
1/3 cup capers
½c olives
Spanish peppers
2 cloves garlic



Disjoint a chicken and cut the larger portions into fairly small pieces. Brown it in ½ cup cooking oil, add chopped parsley and garlic. Now add ¾ pound of rice and, after it has taken on a golden color, add three cups of water and cook slowly, keeping covered so as to preserve the aroma. The rice should be cooked through but not broken open. Add two teaspoons salt, 1/3 cup capers and ½ cup olives, cut up. Garnish with Spanish peppers and serve hot.

RICE AND BEANS

This is the staple food of most families, sometimes served twice a day. The proportion of meat depends on the finances of the family.

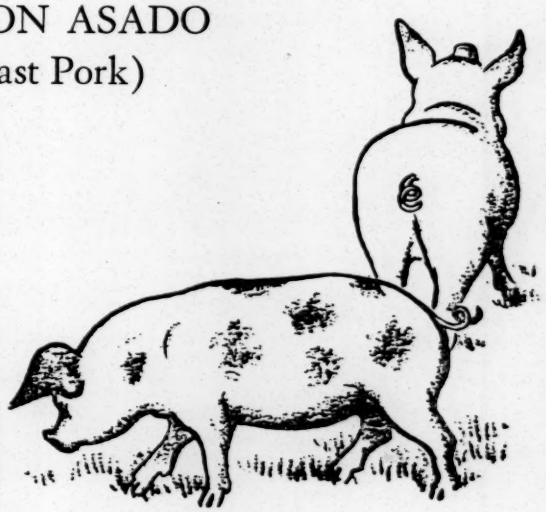
Wash a cup of rice five or six times in cold water until it rinses clear then liberally cover with hot water and salt to taste. Cover tightly and simmer until the rice is tender. Add water from time to time to keep it moist but *do not stir*. During the last five minutes of cooking add two tablespoons of lard. The slightly crusty part of the rice which sticks to the pan is called "apagado" and is highly prized by the children.

Soak one pound red kidney beans overnight. In the morning pour off the water; add one pound of ham cut up in pieces, a clove of garlic, and salt. Cover with water and simmer until the beans are soft (about an hour and a half). When beans are done prepare a "sofrito" as follows: Fry a half cup each of bacon and salt pork cut in pieces. When brown add ¾ cup tomato sauce, one large onion, one sweet pepper chopped, and one bay leaf. Cook together ten minutes. Add sofrito to the beans.

The rice and beans are served together but not mixed.

LECHON ASADO

(Roast Pork)



This is the classic "Fiesta" dish, roast suckling pig; however, for our purpose any pork roast will do. The seasoning should include a light rub with garlic and a liberal sprinkling of thyme in addition to salt and pepper. This is served with rice prepared as in the recipe for rice and beans.

FRIED BANANAS

In Puerto Rico plantains are more generally used for this than bananas. They are larger, firmer and more delicate in flavor.

Choose bananas which are not too ripe, slice and dip into beaten egg, then crumbs. Fry in deep fat. These may accompany any main dish as a vegetable.

SALAD

Salad is not widely used in Puerto Rico, but, for American tastes, it is important to lighten a rather heavy meal—you might feature avocado in a tossed green salad.

DESSERT

Puerto Rican meals do not end with dessert as generally as do ours. Frequently, however, the meal ends with "Dulce de Guyava" and cheese. This "guava paste" is made from cooking down strained guava and sugar until it forms a very firm jelly

which may be cut and served in pieces. It can probably be purchased in imported food shops. Any kind of candied fruit might be used instead.

Another classic Puerto Rican dessert is "Bien Me Sabe," or coconut cream. The recipe may be found in the *Boston Cooking School Book*. This is a delicious but fussy dessert to make and rather expensive. A coconut-flavored cornstarch pudding might be substituted, or sliced fresh oranges with grated coconut.

PASTELIOS

These are highly favored as an accompaniment to morning coffee. Make a stiff dough of flour, salt and water and roll very thin. Cut into circles about three inches in diameter. In the center of each circle place a bit of meat paste, cheese, or marmalade, fold over and pinch edges very firmly, or seal with fork tines. Drop into deep fat and fry until delicately brown and puffy. Drain on paper and serve hot.

PUERTO RICAN SONGS AND GAMES

By JANE SPRAGG

What we know as "party games" do not have the place in Puerto Rican life that they have in ours. At parties the usual entertainment consists of recitations with all the gestures and dramatic zest which made them popular here in our grandmother's day. They are often extraordinarily long.

Of course organized sports like "bais bol," which you will recognize if you pronounce the words out loud, are popular with the boys and they shout for a "hon ron" as loudly as their Continental cousins.

Children's games are the international favorites of Cat and Rat, Hide and Seek, Tag, and so on. Their Spanish flavor comes from the songs sung for these games which are frequently syncopated and have charming melodies. A Spanish record company called "Allegro Records" has recorded many of them with a woman singer who is quite delightful.

Group singing is also very popular. Often the verses are extemporaneous while all join in the chorus. Various native instruments, familiar in the many South American dance bands, usually accompany these songs.

Perhaps the loveliest of the native songs are the Christmas Carols. "Venid Pastorcillos" is one of the favorites but at first sounds strange to Northern ears. Even more Puerto Rican are the "Aquinaldos." These are true folksongs, coming from the country people, and are sung by groups which go from house to house all during the days between Christmas and Epiphany, or Three Kings' Day as it is better known south of the border. They might be called carols, too, but are much less sophisticated. Many recordings have been made of them.

The influence of the Continental American is obvious in all of the singing. Hymns are usually translations of those familiar to us, though I am sorry to say often not of the best musically.

The Youth Conferences have popularized many of our "fun songs," as you may see by the two I have included. I have tried to choose songs which will be familiar with simple Spanish translations. They are all widely sung in Puerto Rico.

1. La Hija De Mi Tia (My Aunt's Daughter)

(Sung to the tune of "John Brown's Baby."
Same motions and dropping of nouns.)

La hija de mi tia tiene un terrible tos. *(Repeat twice)*
Y se cura con asete camforado.

Phonetically
(Lah ee-hah day mee tee-ah tee-en-ai oon
terreeb-lay tos.
Ee say coora con ah-say-tay cam-for-ahdo.)

(My Aunt's daughter has a terrible cough. She
is treating it with camphorated oil.)

2. Juan Jacob Pablo De LaMoy

(Sung to tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmit")

Juan Jacob Pablo De LaMoy,
Es mi nombre, si!
Quando jo me voy,
Me dicen lo que soy.
Juan Jacob Pablo De LaMoy.
(da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da)

Phonetically
(Wan Hah-cob Pahblo Day LaMoy,
Ess mee nome-bray, see!
Quan-do yo may voy,
May dee-sen lo kay soy.
Wan Hah-cob Pahblo Day LaMoy.)

English
(John Jacob Peter De LaMoy,
Yes, that's my name.
Whenever I go out,
They tell me who I am.
John Jacob Peter De LaMoy.)

3. Doxology

A Dios, el Padre celestial,
Al Hijo, nuestro Redentor,
Y al Eternal Consolador,
Unidos todos alabad.

(Ah Dee-ohs, el Pah-dray say-less-tee-al,
Ahl Ee-ho, noo-ai-stro Ray-den-tor,
Ee ahl Ai-tair-nal Cone-sol-ahdor,
Oo-nee-dos toh-dos ahl-ah-bahd.)

4. Santo! Santo! Santo! (Holy, Holy, Holy!)

You will probably find it difficult to fit the words to the tune. This is in part due to the tendency to elide certain syllables and short words, and in part to the translation. In the phonetic version I have attempted to couple the Spanish and English words together to aid in the singing.

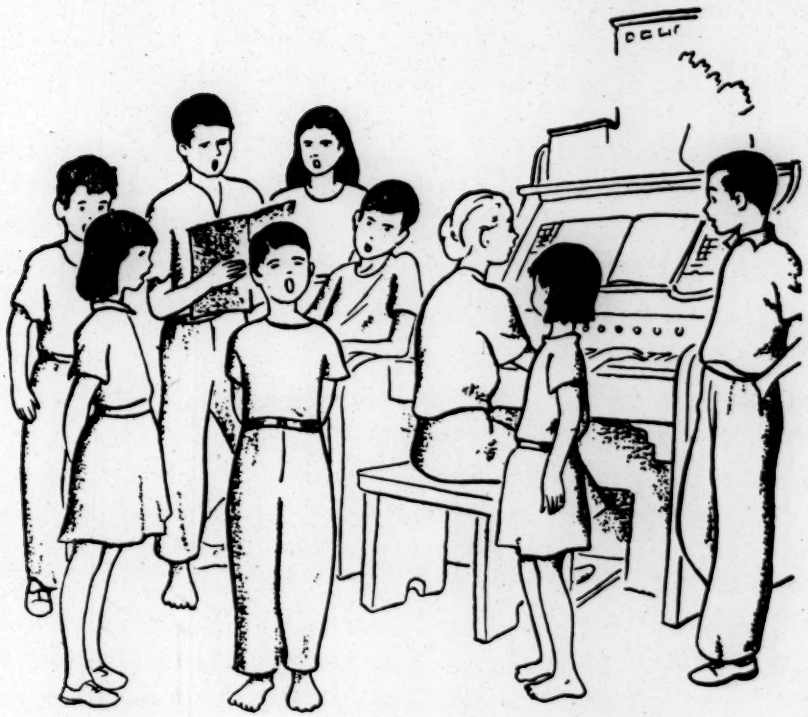
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Señor Omnipotente
Siempre el labio mío loores te daré;
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! te adoro reverente,
Dios en tres personas, bendita trinidad.

(Sahn-toe!	Sahn-toe!	Sahn-toe!	Say-ñor	Ohm-nee-poh-ten-tay	
Holy	Holy	Holy	Lord	God Almighty	

See-em-pray	el	lah-bee-oh	mee-oh	low-or-rays	tay	dar-ray;
Early	in	the	morning	my song shall	rise	to thee;

Sahn-toe!	Sahn-toe!	Sahn-toe!	tay ah-dor-oh ray-ver	entay,
Holy	Holy	Holy	merciful and	mighty,

Dee-ohs	en trays	pear-sohn-ahs,	ben-dee-tah	tree-nee-dahd.
God	in three	persons,	blessed	trinity.)



JANE SPRAGG

(From a News Bureau Write-up)

A doctor, as well as the wife of a minister and the mother of three small children, Jane M. Spragg, M.D., served in Puerto Rico as a medical missionary under the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions, from 1948 to 1952.

Mrs. Spragg is the wife of the Rev. Howard E. Spragg, now on the staff of the American Missionary Association Division of The Board of Home Missions in New York. She has been especially interested in X-ray treatments and tuberculosis research although she was a general practitioner among the women and children.

A native of New Jersey, Mrs. Spragg attended Oberlin College and then went to the University of Chicago from which she was graduated in 1943 with a B.S. It was during her student days in Chicago that she met and married her husband and during their first year together they lived and worked in settlement houses in the Czechoslovakian area of Chicago's South Side.

When her first child, a daughter, was eight months old Mrs. Spragg entered the University of Chicago School of Medicine from which she received her M.D. in 1948. Her son was born during her senior year in Medical School!

Mrs. Spragg interned in Chicago during 1948. Then when her husband was appointed as Supervisor of the Congregational Christian work in Puerto Rico, he had to fly to his post with the two children leaving Mrs. Spragg to finish her internship after which she joined him and started her practice at the Ryder Memorial Hospital at Humacao. Before the Spraggs returned to the mainland a third member of the family joined them in Puerto Rico, a second son.

When she finds time for hobbies, Mrs. Spragg dabbles in painting, decorating, gardening and photography.

EDITOR'S ADDITION. Today her husband is working with the home end of the Puerto Rico work, as Secretary of the Board, and the Spraggs live in New York. But New York today has a host of Puerto Ricans so she could not feel entirely out of touch with the lovely island.

When we asked Mr. Spragg to help us with this issue of the ENVELOPE SERIES he promptly assured us that Jane, not he, was the *writer* in the Spragg family. We are grateful for her insight and excellent interpretation and have made *her* a Feature Celebrity in this Program Plan!

OUR PUERTO RICO

Jane Spragg, M.D., Reports

Fifteen hundred miles to the southeast of us lies a tiny fragment of land which geologists tell us was once a mountaintop on the continent of America. Puerto Rico is only 100 miles long and a mere 35 miles wide, but since 1898 she has again "belonged" to the mainland and for fifty-five years her people have been citizens of the United States. How strangely little we have known about these fellow Americans until now, when their tragic problems have forced our attention!

It has been said that Puerto Rico's greatest natural resource is people. The fact of overcrowding is urgently forced upon a visitor who, in driving anywhere on the island, sees no lovely view of the emerald green ocean or tropical forests without its cluster of miserable shacks teeming with children. Puerto Rico has been doubling its population every fifty years. *In an area less than one-third the size of Vermont live 2,226,000 people,* an agrarian civilization with less than one-half acre of arable land per person—and this in a large part planted with sugar cane! The birth rate, a staggering 40 per 1000, is twice that of the United States, while modern medicine is fast reducing the mortality to figures comparable to ours. With overpopulation has come poverty to what was once an island paradise!

These facts were evident to the first Protestant missionaries arriving on the island at the turn of the century. Their Christian faith proclaimed God's concern with the world. Their efforts have produced a vigorous Protestant movement in a nominally Roman Catholic country. Typically, their concern was for the whole man: economic, physical and spiritual.

For our Puerto Rico Mission the Church is central. Known there as the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico, it is actually a pioneer merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In recent years

many of the churches have come to complete self-support and the others are well along the way. Their membership is well over 5,000. (Across the island there are a total of more than 55,000 Protestants in the various denominations with perhaps 175,000 actually attending church or Sunday school regularly.)

Of course many of our Puerto Rican members are first generation Protestants. They have *chosen* their church. Their sense of Stewardship, tithing from pitifully small incomes, is a source of inspiration and, I think, a little shame to the continental visitor. The Puerto Rican churches were first to subscribe fully to their share of the Church Building Loan Fund! As is often true of a young church, the first members were the poorest, the hopeless, one might say, the "lost souls," but they and their children are finding themselves and many are now nurses, teachers, doctors and lawyers with a feeling of deep responsibility toward their countrymen. They may be found in all of our institutions and in positions of authority in the insular government.

"Feed My Sheep"

But churches are fellowships of human beings with their physical and economic needs. Our missionaries know that even today the average Puerto Rican mother must manage her family of seven on 600 American dollars a year; that there is not room for some of her children in the local school; that at the age of forty, prematurely old, she will have buried a third of her babies. They know that land which now produces 150 pounds of coffee a year might, with proper fertilizers, produce as much as 1,500 pounds. They know that hookworm infests as much as 90% of the people in some areas, making them susceptible to tuberculosis, and pneumonia, reducing their efficiency.

Yuquiyu Rural Life Community was born of this awful knowledge. Beginning with 119 acres in the midst of a government housing program of small farms with poured concrete houses, the staff have been teaching modern agricultural meth-

ods, soil conservation, lending out breeding stock, and helping to establish a credit union where farmers may borrow money for livestock, fertilizer, etc., or to tide them over family emergencies. Trades are being taught, and the men and women of the community now run their own coöperative which sells needlework, pottery and furniture to tourists in the smart shops of San Juan. Parent education, "Schools for Living," schools of coöperatives, youth conferences and scholarship aid are filling in the knowledge and cultural vacuum. The joint efforts of men, women and children in the community have built a modern school, grocery coöperative, church and clinic, the latter staffed by extension service from our own hospital. In the walls of these buildings are childish scrawls, names of youngsters who helped carry sand and water from their river to build them.

A recent letter from Thelma Chatham, wife of the director, tells what Yuquiyu means to its community:

"We've had an extremely busy few months. The conference center was in use constantly not only with our own church groups but also "Y" teenagers, Baptists, Adventists, and a 4H conference . . . Our third vacation Bible School was even more successful than the last. . . . This Sunday we walked down to visit some neighbors. I am going to write Howard about it more fully, but just briefly, we found the woman a year ago July with advanced T.B. weighing 94 pounds and she's 5′ 2″ tall. The doctor told Ivan her chances were slim. But today she weighs 124 and has almost an arrested case. When she started treatment her husband was going to sell the farm for $225 and go home to Barranquitas thinking she wouldn't live long. The injections and 'Droga Magica' and good food have really worked magic. He has coöperated with the cooking and work. He's a real farmer, plants food crops instead of sugar cane and when he goes to market he doesn't bring home the money to buy rice and beans but uses part of it to buy the vegetables and meat. They have two quarts of milk a day and buy an extra on Sundays. He told Ivan, 'If I had sold last year instead of listening to you, I'd be below ground with my good wife.' He has his farm planted on the contour with good grass to hold the banks which he cuts and feeds to his horse, pig, and goat. He has platinos, bananas, beans, corn, squash, peppers, yautias, etc. We walked all over it. It is beautiful. And he added: 'This farm is worth $1,000 now.' He's a member of the Credit Union and gets a loan to buy fertilizer."

As you see, the economic and physical needs of people go hand in hand. As there must be a Yuquiyu, there must also be a Ryder. Three out of four Puerto Ricans eat a grossly inadequate diet, their babies (80% born at home) rarely receive anything but milk during their first year. Many families wash, bathe and drink from polluted streams where their cows and pigs enjoy the same privilege.

Ryder Memorial Hospital is located in Humacao at the lush and beautiful southeastern part of the island. At the totally inadequate municipal hospital the doctor may "see" as many as 200 patients in two hours, of necessity handing out prescriptions at a glance without even listening to the patient's complaint or doing a physical examination. The medicines prescribed may not be carried by the mayor's dispensary so the patient, unable to meet a 50% to 300% mark-up at a local pharmacy, goes without them. The District Hospital, where any serious illness must be cared for, is an hour's drive away and its facilities so overtaxed that acute cases must often wait a month before admission, often far too late.

Ryder Hospital has for over thirty years given hope and, often enough, life to these people. Last year nearly 3,000 patients were hospitalized and 19,000 treated in its clinic, an heroic effort for its four well-trained and dedicated doctors. Ryder's graceful pavillion holds sixty beds and thirteen bassinets, modern X-ray equipment, air-conditioned operating and delivery rooms, nursery, laboratory, and its own pharmacy. But the doctors know only too well that many Puerto Ricans cannot come the many difficult miles from their homes in the hills or from the neighboring towns where no medical care is to be had. Not only illness, but the few cents in bus fare, the sense of futility and fear keep them at home. A medical social worker, now famous and beloved for her visits in a jeep, goes to them. With

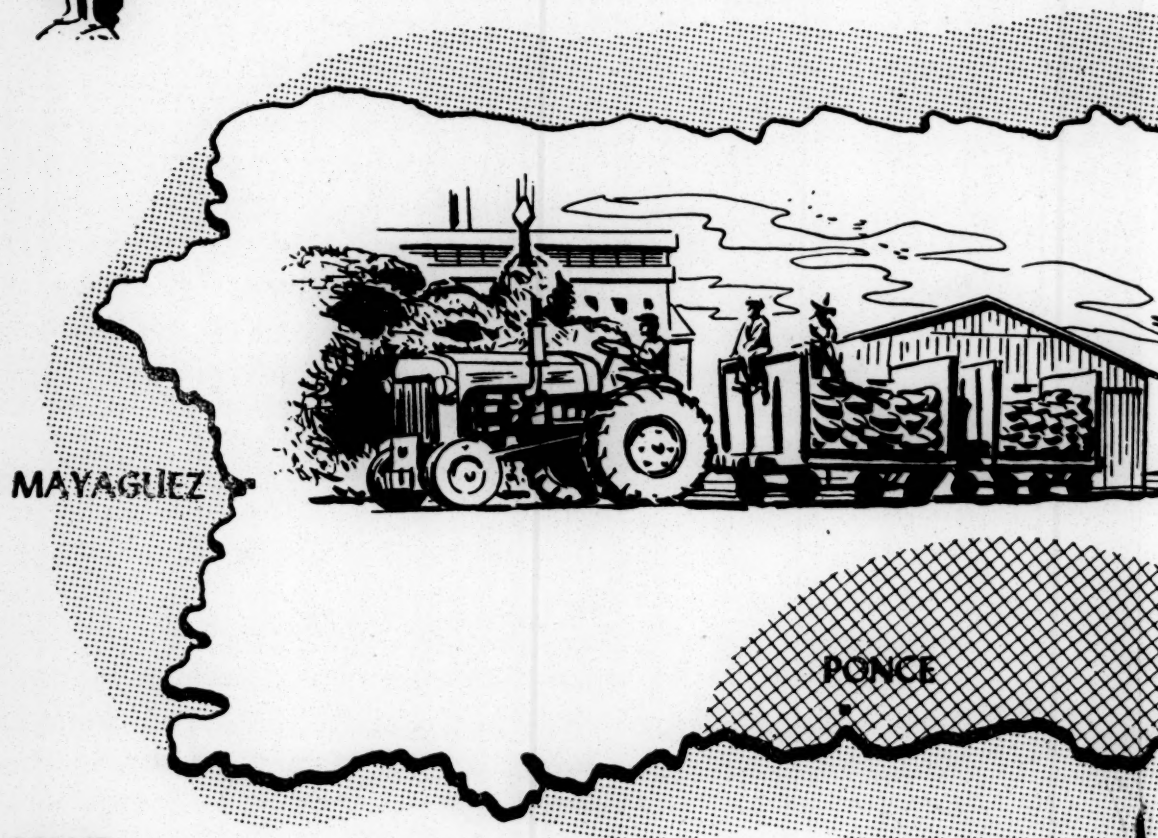
her help "flying squadrons" (clinics manned by Ryder doctor-and-nurse teams) go regularly into the various country districts or town slum areas. In these clinics 4,000 additional patients were treated last year. Here the emphasis is largely upon preventative medicine, mass immunization of the children, parasitic control, prenatal care and birth control.

Appalling as are the physical needs of the Puerto Ricans, the Ryder doctors do not forget that theirs is a unique task, that they are not merely physicians, but *Christian physicians ministering to these people in the name of Christ.* It is a true vocation for them, one which must be thought through and its meaning shared with others of their calling. To this end the Ryder staff has been instrumental in the calling together of other doctors on the island for a series of vocation conferences where they may consider the meaning and the ethical problems of their daily work. They return with renewed dedication and fresh insight. This sense of God's concern for all men is personified to the patients not only by the medical staff but by the hospital chaplain who makes his quiet rounds, and holds worship services for those who are ambulatory. Faces brighten as he passes and anxieties shared with him seem less overpowering.

The Story of Juana

What does Ryder mean to the people? This is what Juana's mother said to her doctor: "*You* are her mother. She has been born again!" Lovely, sad-eyed little Juana who *in her seventh year weighed only twenty-six pounds!* She appeared in clinic one morning, one of the seventy-five or eighty who sat on the bare benches patiently waiting their turn. Before her on the wall were bright posters about infant care, diet, T.B. and hookworm control. If only her mother could have seen them years ago—because Juana's illness was so tragically unnecessary, so easy to cure in the beginning. At last her name was called. A smiling Puerto Rican nurse led her into the doctor's office. There a fa-

OUR MINISTRIES IN PUERTO



PONCE

The interdenominational press — Puerto Rico Evangelical — with five denominations co-operating.

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RIO PIEDRAS

The United Evangelical Seminary, supported by five Protestant groups. We supply one faculty member.

YUQUIYU

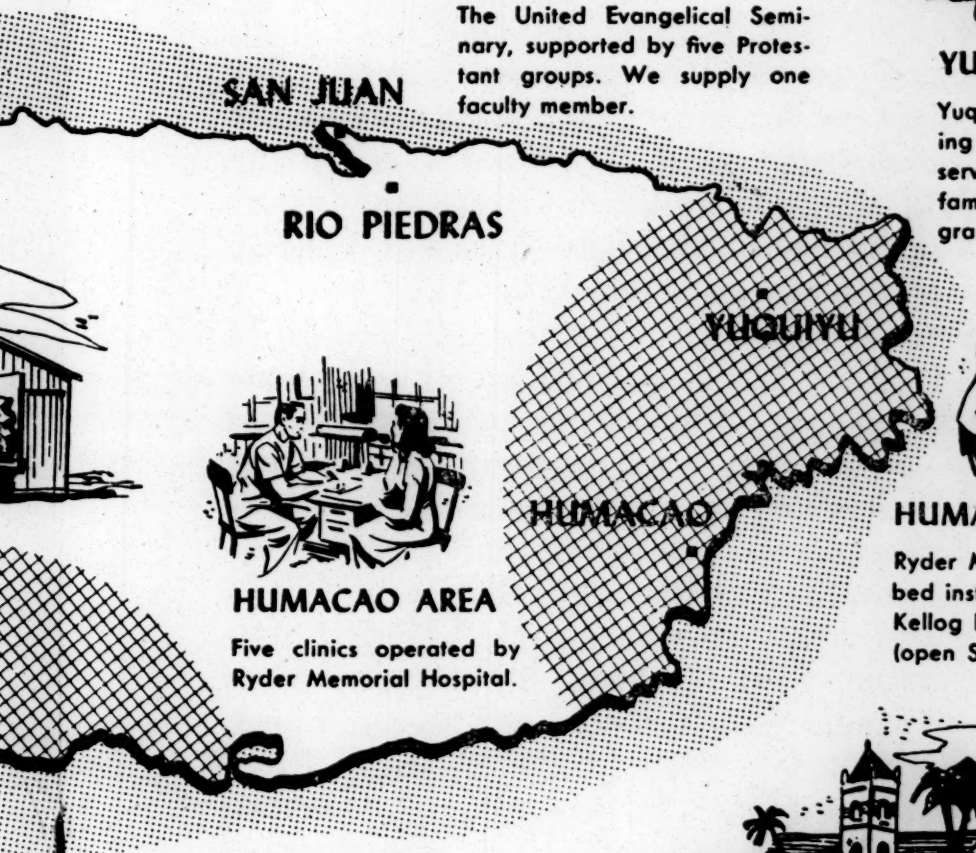
Yuquiyu Rural Life Center, carrying on a variety of social services, including recreation, family counseling, and a program of economic self help.

HUMACAO AREA

Five clinics operated by Ryder Memorial Hospital.

HUMACAO

Ryder Memorial Hospital, a 56 bed institution with the Blanche Kellog Nurses' Training School. (open September 1954)



CHURCHES

In 1931 the Congregational Christian Churches united with the Evangelical United Brethren to form the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico, 48 organized churches and 50 preaching stations.

OF HOME MISSIONS
ONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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miliar story was told. For her first year she had been given nothing but milk and a bit of starchy vegetable. As soon as she was able to run on her little bare feet she contracted several different kinds of parasites as well as intermittent dysentery. The milk diet was continued because the family's rice and beans did not agree with her. Occasionally her mother noticed that Juana's hands and feet were swollen. She was too dizzy to play or go to school. Native herb teas failed to cure her. At Ryder a complete physical examination showed a child half the normal height for her age, her huge abdomen grotesque upon stick-like legs. Her white lips placed her hemoglobin at scarcely twenty per cent of normal. Obviously, a long hospitalization was imperative if this child were to live much longer, but Juana's mother was frightened. How much would this cost? What relief and gratitude was in her heart when the doctor told her that there was money to care for her child sent by concerned church people in the States! Juana was then led off to the pediatric ward, apathetic when a technician took a blood test and unprotesting at the routine chest X-ray. Even the doll she found in her bed, her first, failed to interest her very much.

A few weeks, several blood transfusions, and many, many vitamins later Juana came back to life, a sparkling little senorita who, with doll tucked under her arm, marched happily after her favorite nurse up and down the hospital. During her visits to the hospital Juana's mother had conferences with the doctors, nurses and social worker so that, when finally discharged, Juana went back to a very different home. Elements of sanitation, diet, child care and family planning had opened a new life not only for her, but for her brothers, sisters and neighbors. From then on Ryder's jeep was a symbol of continued interest in her welfare, almost incomprehensible to these "forgotten people" of Puerto Rico's hills. Perhaps she *had* been "born again."

A TOAST TO PUERTO RICO

Short Talks Prepared by Recent Visitors and by Our Leaders There

Give Puerto Rico A Break

Prepared by Celia Hook

One of the pleasantest things I can think of to do right now would be to board a Pan American Constellation at Idlewild Airport, and in about five hours step off upon "An Island more colorful than any this side of Paradise," Puerto Rico.

You could enjoy the modernity of the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan, where the blue water of its swimming pool vies with the vivid blues of the ocean and sky. But you might drive to the edge of the city and see in real life a scene pictured vividly in a recent magazine—city trucks moving fifty families and their belongings from virtual shacks in an overcrowded slum to modern apartments in the newest of the low-cost housing projects. The transition is as drastic as the change from day to night. Rejoice with them, but keep in remembrance the tens of thousands who are still crowded in unsanitary, tumbledown cabins on stilts.

But let's shake off the rôle of tourist and become proud Congregationalists instead! We'll visit Ryder Memorial Hospital, and there we may use the word "proud" without reservation, for Ryder has a wonderful reputation throughout the island. Sacrificial service on the part of the staff is impressive, and you long for such service to be available for the suffering multitudes of that undernourished population. And then, still proud, we would come to the Humacao High School, one of the better schools in Puerto Rico. The leadership of the principal, Andero Solis, is in part why this school is so fine. He is a Congregationalist, and chooses to be introduced as a Christian first and an

educator second. The island is sorely in need of schools and teachers. There is compulsory education but never enforced for lack of resources.

Another bit we should see with joy in this sub-tropical island of contrasts is Yuquiyu (pronounced Ju-kee-ju) Rural Life Center, where three devoted and energetic young couples are at work. Coöperatives have been organized; they are teaching the farmers diversified farming instead of the inevitable sugar cane; they are encouraging the development of pasture land, and a better strain of cattle is being bred; just to mention a few of the activities being carried on. Our little church there has flourished to the point that the building has had to be enlarged twice, and a full program is being carried on in the church and church school.

Most of us know the story of Puerto Rico's teeming population—the fastest growing in the world. All reports tell of the problem of the sugar cane worker and his less than $500 annual salary. We see appalling statistics concerning health and sanitation. All this seems so contrary to the quiet and sustaining beauty of the mountains and the sea, the flowers and the trees. The conditions under which our Protestant leadership is working demand that we fellow Americans on the mainland give them all the support we possibly can, in every way we can. Let's give Puerto Rico a break!

Puerto Rican Portrait

Prepared by Naomi G. Ekdahl

Petite and poised, colorfully but tastefully attired, becoming to her beautiful dark skin, Josefina Acosta, Ryder Hospital office secretary, sits at her desk taking dictation from one of the new physicians, in English, which she will translate into Spanish. Josefina came to Ryder soon after completing her high school education. Josefina (the "J" is pronounced like "H") is

typical of the fine young people in our Puerto Rican churches. She often represents the Humacao Church at the annual Youth Conference conducted by the United Evangelical Church.

On her day off Josefina goes home out into the campo.* One of sixteen children, she is greeted by her mother and brothers and sisters. Sometimes her mother manages to serve her favorite dish, chicken and rice. Josefina is the only Evangelical in her family, the others, like many Puerto Ricans, being nominally Roman Catholic.

Josefina takes great pride in the total work of our Puerto Rican mission. In the work of Ryder Hospital and its outpost clinics she coöperates with Rev. John Smith, M.D., its dedicated, efficient director. Sometimes she accompanies Betty MacDonald, the dynamic social worker, up into the hills of Yuquiyu Rural Life Community Center, where a consecrated ministry is carried on under the leadership of Rev. "Ike" Chatham among the jibaros.†

Now, her office work over, she asks if she may guide us about Ryder Hospital. We note one little girl patient smiling through the discomfort of impetigo. "Why is she so happy?" we ask. The reply: "Because she is in bed; at home she has only a piece of burlap upon which to lie." Josefina introduces us to Don Juan Sanchez, head farmer at Ryder, who tells us of the chapel where he is lay leader. "There is only a membership of nine," he is interpreted as saying, but adds hopefully, "but there are twenty-five sympathizers and a Sunday school of forty-five."

We are thrilled by all we see on our Puerto Rican pilgrimage but there lingers in our minds the portrait of Josefina Acosta as she symbolizes the accomplishments and the hopes of our Board of Home Missions at work in this island commonwealth and we pledge ourselves anew to her and others like her in Our Christian World Mission in Puerto Rico, U.S.A.

* Campo means country.

† Jibaro means hill dwellers, or "mountaineers," in our phraseology.

El Reverendo!

Prepared by one of his Associates

Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua is Counsellor to the pastors of the 27 churches and 30 chapels of the Congregational Christian branch of the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico! He is the "new" missionary type—"Get-in-there-and-get-out-of-there-as-soon-as-possible." Consequently, during the last three years (he has been in the island four) ten of the 27 churches are entirely self-supporting and the others are on their way. The *Church* here must *stand,* even though the *Mission* fall away (as in China). To do so, it must be "indigenous," or rooted among the people themselves in the very soil of the island, and it is Mr. Bevilacqua's concern to show them that this is possible.

In fact, to him nothing is impossible, as evidenced in his life story. Born and brought up in New York State during the depression years, he graduated from high school with honors, worked his way through Tufts College and Chicago Theologigal Seminary. During the years of his first ministry in Chicago, he met and married tall, fair, and charming Elaine Engwall, the daughter of Baptist missionaries to Africa. The Bevilacquas have one child, Lisa, who is probably a big sister by this time, according to the latest news!

His duties are a thousand and one. He reviews the quarterly reports of the churches, encourages the pastors, hears their problems and difficulties, helps them work out budgets, advises about resource materials for pastor and church schools, and, as ordained minister, he fills in in many a chapel or church baptism, wedding ceremony, or communion service. His big voice fills the small mountainside chapel, or the city church, and though his Spanish is not the Spanish of Cervantes, he makes up for it in delivery and content. His hearers listen eagerly, for it is no soft and sentimental Gospel that comes from El Reverendo.

When the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico be-

comes entirely self-supporting, enabling American Missions to move into other fields here and elsewhere, no small part of the credit will be due the Reverend Joseph J. Bevilacqua for his enthusiasm and determination.

Here's to the Health of Our Doctor!

Prepared by one of the Hospital Staff

Tall, with quiet gray eyes, a winning smile and a rare sense of humor; calm, efficient, never seeming to be in a hurry and yet a "power-house" of accomplishment—is Dr. John Smith. As medical director of Ryder Memorial Hospital, he has unobtrusively consecrated himself to a job which needed doing—and some of his devotion and enthusiasm have been felt by all of the staff. When the hospital needed a new roof, John was right there leading the staff in the accomplishment of the project. We are all working overtime and yet with a director like John Smith one wouldn't think of doing anything less than his best. His very example is more eloquent than many a sermon.

He is the only man whom I have known who can literally do three things at once! (or almost). One often happens into his office to find him interviewing patients, with an article in the *Christian Century* open before him, and writing a letter on the typewriter between times. Dr. Smith's day starts at 5:30 A.M. when he arrives at the hospital for his morning rounds!

Besides revitalizing the Christian Mission of Ryder Hospital, Dr. Smith has been instrumental in extending the outreach of the institution to rural areas through several out-station clinics. He has been concerned with an organization of Protestant doctors on the island to develop a sense of Christian vocation.

His wife, Virginia, and the three boys, John David, six, Howard, five, and Dwight, two, complete the family. Their home is always open to anyone who climbs the hill to the Hospital.

Here's to the Yuquiyu Pioneers

Prepared by a Friend

"Amigo" (friend) and not just "Americano" is the way his Puerto Rican neighbors think of Ivan Chatham. This Missourian, who must bend down to enter a doorway, has dedicated his past ten years of life to a demonstration of Christian pacifism in all its aspects: to simplicity of living, and most specifically to the service of his friends, the Puerto Rican "jibaros." Ivan is a natural pioneer and his practical demonstrations extend over a broad field which includes organic farming, coöperatives, organization of conferences, soil conservation, small industries programs, public health work, and work camps.

A graduate from Southwestern College in Kansas, Ivan, after special training in the School of Social Service, was sent to Puerto Rico in 1943 as a part of the Civilian Public Service Program. His previous experience in Fort Berthold, North Dakota, enabled him to develop a milk-feeding program for undernourished children, carry on a program to reduce the frequency of hookworm, plan and put on a recreation program, as well as a sanitation experiment.

In 1946, at the end of the war, the Civilian Public Service Unit in which Ivan worked was to be closed. Yet the need was so great and the experience of working in Puerto Rico with the rural people had been such a deep spiritual experience to Ivan and others of the unit that they wanted to carry the work on. Aided by Congregationalists, Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers and Rev. William Hastings, he and other unit members founded Yuquiyu Rural Life Community, Ivan its first director.

As a result of the thinking and experience of this first group, a unique social work program is being carried on today in which members of the unit live in widely separated corners of the community, and each contributes his part as a resident member of the community instead of living in a "station" or isolated

center. (Thelma Chatham and Ivan's two daughters and son can be found at almost all community activities taking a very active part, along with "Ike.") The effectiveness of the program at Yuquiyu is a tribute to the patient persistence of these pioneers who have made themselves and their families a part of a Christian program. We are proud to introduce them to you!

LET THE CHILDREN PLAY A STORY

Dramatizing "New Friends for Nena"

This book by Miss McDowell (see Supplementary List, page 52) has excellent possibilities for informal dramatization by the children themselves. Only Chapters I, II, III are useful, the rest being about Puerto Ricans in New York.

Call your play "Nena Celebrates Three Kings' Day."

Plan three episodes:

Episode I —"Tomorrow is Three Kings' Day"—use Chapter I.
Episode II —"Momma Remembers"—Chapter II.
Episode III—"The Big Surprise"—Chapter III.

This can be treated either as pantomime with a Reader, or after two readings with the children it can be dramatized from memory—in other words, retold in action. Or the children can help *make a play,* choosing the characters and apportioning the speeches for each one to use.

TWO HEARTS FOR PUERTO RICO

This little play is designed to be read without rehearsal and with as many people as possible participating. It may be done very informally and with no attempt at stage setting or props but with the participants facing the audience so they may be heard. Or it may be done as in many play readings—with characters coming onto the "stage," or, in other words, taking their place at a table at the front when the time comes to participate. Or, of course, there can be a pretense at "staging" by simply arranging chairs as, for instance, in the case of the bus.

The Narrator and the parts of Bill and Ruth should be selected for dramatic ability in reading. The Narrator should sit off to one side, making clear that he is not an actor. Caution all to speak *to be heard*. The place names are pronounced in the text to make reading easier. The participants are as follows. (More may be added by increasing the bus passengers or the hospital workers, or some may be combined in those scenes.)

Narrator
Ruth Avery
Bill Ridgeway
Supt. of Schools
Pub-lico Driver
1st Passenger
2nd "
3rd "
4th "
5th "
Girl, Ana Marcano
Motorist
Orderly
Dr. Smith
Nurse
Mr. Marcano
Mrs. "
Mr. Green
P.R. Worker

Two Hearts For Puerto Rico—*Scene I*

NARRATOR: The first scene is the office of the Supt. of Schools in the U.S.A.

SUPT. CLARK: Come in, Miss Avery. What can I do for you?

RUTH AVERY: You're our *new* Supt., Mr. Clark. If you were my old Supt. I wouldn't be here.

SUPT.: Is that so? Why is that? Sit down and tell me what's on your mind. I have been here long enough to hear that you are an excellent third grade teacher.

RUTH: Well, that's nice. But I'm resigning, Mr. Clark, as of June. This is April. The fact is I'm tired of teaching. I can't take it any more.

SUPT.: Now this is serious, Miss Avery. Tell me what's wrong.

RUTH: Well, for one thing, the children are spoiled. They have so much at Christmas. I heard one say last year, "Is *that* all we're going to get?" They don't want to learn, and they are not grateful that they have enough to eat. We bang away on "Drink Your Milk" and teach them cute songs so they *will* drink it. We spend $1,500 on Halloween to keep them from taking off spare tires and breaking windows. My old Supt. would think I had lost my mind, for I have always been patient with children.

SUPT.: I am concerned. What about your satisfaction in a job well done?

RUTH: No, I don't get that any more.

SUPT.: Any job has its drawbacks. What *do* you plan to do?

RUTH: I'm going away. I've saved $2,000. I've studied Spanish just to save my own mental life, and I'm going on a cruise to Puerto Rico and maybe on to South America. When I get back I'll get a job that deals with inanimate objects!

SUPT.: No chance you'll change your mind? Well, I can only say I'm sorry for *us,* and hope you have a fine trip.

Scene II

NARRATOR: Ruth Avery is now on a plane just about to land at the end of her journey to Puerto Rico. There is a most attractive young man, Bill Ridgeway, aboard the plane who has picked up an acquaintance with Ruth and sits beside her.

RUTH: We're coming into San Juan! What a magnificent harbor! "Que (Ker) puerto rico!"

BILL: You know your Spanish. Wasn't it Ponce de Leon who said that? What a rich harbor?

RUTH (laughing): My book says so. I'm going to swim at Luquillo (Loo-kee-yoh) Beach the very first thing I do.

BILL: Could you use company?

RUTH: *Some* company I could. If he didn't try to tell me what to do.

BILL: I never advise. I follow.

RUTH: Oh, look at those awful shacks down below there in the mud flats! Aren't they simply awful looking? There must be thousands! You can see the tide comes up right under the houses!

BILL: "The slums of San Juan"—every book about the island mentions those.

RUTH: I'm glad my hotel is in Ponce (pon-thay). I wouldn't like to live near such a section as that. But look at the beautiful mountains!

BILL: That's right. Always look above the slums.

RUTH: I'm going to think of pleasant things this trip. No problems.

BILL: Two hearts that beat as one. No problems for me, either.

NARRATOR: So the two young people went to Loo-kee-yoh Beach and swam in the beautiful blue waters of the bay. Now they are eating lunch at a picnic table under the palm trees.

RUTH: There seem to be tours all over the island. All those buses and taxis in San Juan! Wouldn't it be fun to go to the Rain Forest near here and see the fern trees and maybe orchids?

BILL: Company still tolerated?

RUTH: Yes, you're not bossy like some men.

BILL: Thanks a million. I hear those station wagons are called publicos. Do you want me to arrange for transportation, or just follow you?

RUTH: I didn't mean to be rude! It would be kind of you to do that. After my mean remarks, that is real chivalry.

BILL: Oh, no. I traded my chivalry for a Dodge.

RUTH: Oh, dear! All this and wit, too!

NARRATOR: Ruth and Bill found themselves in a publico loaded with other tourists winding up the green slope of El Yunque (Yoon-ker) mountain. There were ferns growing to 30 feet tall. Bill picked orchids from the trees for Ruth, and they swam again in the mountain pool. Now back in the publico, they are on the return journey.

RUTH: Let's sit up front where we can see something. Oh, dear, look at the pitiful houses on the side of the mountain! They look as if the first wind would blow them down! And *look* at those children! Aren't they thin! I mean *don't* look at them. Don't they look tired?

DRIVER: Lady, they all got hookworm disease. 80% of all Puerto Ricans have hookworm disease.

RUTH: Oh, you speak English!

DRIVER: Yes, lady, I came from Chicago. This island reminds me of home; so much wickedness, dirt and too many people.

1ST PASSENGER: Can't the Government do something about those slums? After all, this island is part of the United States.

2ND PASSENGER: Birth control is the answer, my good woman! But that doesn't work any better here than it does in Chicago. A baby is born here every five minutes according to statistics; two million and a half people in a space the size of Connecticut! Such a small island can't feed that many people; they *have* to starve.

3RD PASSENGER: I know that's true. But I do know the authorities are really trying to do away with El Fahn-gee-toh, the worst slum. Outside Rio Pietras (Pee-eh-drahs) there is an enormous development of 10,000 houses. It looks like a honeycomb from the air. But just as soon as one family is evacuated

from the slums, another family moves down from the hills and takes the shack.

4TH PASSENGER (gently): I do know that the Protestant churches are doing a magnificent job. They have churches all over the island with Puerto Rican pastors. And this bus will go right through Humacao (Oo-mah-cah-oh) where they have a beautiful hospital ... the Ryder Memorial.

BILL: Glad to know that. Puerto Rico looks to me like Uncle Sam's neglected step-child.

DRIVER (turns to 4th Passenger): We go past a nice church in Fah-hah-do if you're interested, lady. I know the man who tends to all the Protestant churches. Nice man. Nice blonde wife. His name is Bevil-ack-wa. That man works like a dog! Churches do more good than laws, know that? Seems funny. But those churches teach democracy and practice it, too.

RUTH: You're a real philosopher.

DRIVER: No, I ain't. But I've seen a pile of selfish tourists, and a pile of church people. Give me the church people every time. They treat me like a human being.

5TH PASSENGER: I know what you mean, Driver. I'm the elevator man at the big hotel. Just a part of the elevator, I am.

DRIVER: We're brothers, all right! We've seen life as she is.

(At this point it would be very easy to change the following paragraph by the Narrator into an additional dialogue letting Mr. Bevilacqua tell the visitors about these activities of the church. See page 21 for additional content. Let the Narrator say that they found both the pastor and the missionary there.)

NARRATOR: The publico went to Fah-zhah-doh where the passengers alighted and went into the Protestant church. Luckily the pastor, Mr. Garcia, himself was inside, and told them that the church had three choirs, men's and women's societies, Sunday school, Young People's Group and sixty members

in their League of Tithers. Then again the bus rolled on toward Oo-mah-cah-oh. Suddenly a child darted out without the slightest warning and was struck by the bus before the driver could stop.

DRIVER: Oh God help us!

RUTH: Let me out, please. I'm a Nurse's Aide! I don't think she is dead; she can't be!

BILL: Back up, driver, a couple of feet! The front fender hit her sideways!

RUTH: Oh, dear, I must speak Spanish! Where are you hurt, little girl?

GIRL (faintly): My leg.

5TH PASSENGER: Don't move her! If her leg is broken, she ought not to be moved until a doctor comes. That's the first rule in First Aid.

BILL: Yes, but where are you going to get a doctor?

DRIVER: I gotter get the police first. I swear I didn't see her, and I was watching the road, too.

BILL: You certainly were. We will all testify to that.

DRIVER: Oh, will you?

BILL: Sure! Nobody could have stopped.

1ST PASSENGER: Here's a car stopping. Cars always spring out of the ground where there's an accident.

MOTORIST: Hello, there! Accident? Want me to go to Ryder Memorial Hospital and send an ambulance?

BILL: Oh! Please. That'll be wonderful. Tell them it may be a broken leg.

RUTH: Oh, look, Bill! Her leg is black and blue from the hip down. Are you in awful pain, little girl?

GIRL: I can stand it, lady.

RUTH: How old are you?

GIRL: I'm fourteen.

RUTH: Fourteen! But that's impossible! You look about eight..

GIRL: I don't grow much. Ohhh! (groans in pain) My mother will be afraid.

RUTH: Don't worry. We are going to take care of you. What's your name?

GIRL: My name is Ana Marcano (Mah-cah-no). I live way up there on the mountain.

RUTH: We'll go and tell your mother.

ANA: Don't leave me now! You are an angel! An angel!

BILL: Here's the ambulance. Hurray! With an orderly. I'll help you, mister.

ORDERLY: Thanks. I want to push this blanket under her. Then we can slide her onto this stretcher. We won't hurt you, child. Don't you cry.

ANA (crying): Don't go, angel lady!

RUTH: No, I'm not going. After that, Bill, I'll have to see this through.

BILL: Me, too. After all, we ran her down.

NARRATOR: Ana was taken to Ryder Memorial Hospital where an X-ray was taken. It showed no break. But as she was badly bruised, she was put to bed with a sedative and was soon asleep.

BILL: What's the procedure here, Doctor? Who pays?

DR. SMITH: Nobody, often. My name is Smith. We do the best we can, but we're always short-handed.

RUTH: I'll pay for it. I'll be *glad* to pay a place like this. While she's asleep, shouldn't we go to see her parents?

DR. SMITH: Excuse me if I look queer. Yes, go to see them, by all means. The poor Marcanos have nine children and another coming. They are very proud to have all boys except Ana. She is the oldest. The five-year-old looks like a twenty-months-old baby. They are all stunted. And why (angrily) don't we fix them up? We haven't enough to go round.

BILL: Sure, *we're* not blaming you.

DR. SMITH: No, but I keep blaming myself. The trouble is, there are hundreds like the Marcanos. Thousands, I should say.

NURSE: Dr. Smith works day and night. You should see the children who make the rounds of the garbage cans right here in Oo-mah-cah-oh (Humacao). This Ana wears a dress as you see. The others wear nothing whatever. All have hookworm disease.

BILL: Think you can take that, Ruth?

RUTH: If they can live it, I guess I can look at it.

DR. SMITH: You're not much like the ordinary tourists. We all thank you.

NARRATOR: Ruth and Bill went to the hillside where the Marcanos lived. The mountain path was steep and crooked. Suddenly they came upon the house. It was a two-roomed shack with palm-thatched roof, standing on stilts. A scrawny pig and eight naked little boys ran from the visitors and peeked from around the house. The parents looked out of the open door. There was no furniture, not even chairs.

MR. MARCANO: You come to buy banana? Forty cents bunch.

RUTH: Goodness, how cheap! No, Mr. Marcano, we came to tell you that Ana was hurt, but she's going to be all right. She's in the Ryder Hospital.

MRS. MARCANO: Thanks be to God! Ana will get milk there.

BILL: Don't you have milk for all these children?

MRS. MARCANO: Milk? We should *buy milk?* We have nothing —nothing but day and night! Nothing but two banana trees and the pig and day and night! Ana was coming back with something from the garbage cans.

MR. MARCANO: Ana is all right for a girl. But I got eight boys— all boys!

RUTH: It must cost a lot to feed eleven people. Bill, we must get back to Ana. She will want her supper.

BILL: I could eat four or five of those bananas myself. Let's have a hand, Mr. Marcano. And keep the dollar.

NARRATOR: The two went down the hill eating small sweet bananas. They found Ana wide awake.

RUTH: Nurse, could I feed that little girl?

NURSE: Certainly. I'd be delighted to have you. Here's a tray.

RUTH: Now, Ana, here's your supper. You eat it like a good girl. Every bit now! Half a glass of milk, scrambled eggs, toast, bananas.

ANA: What part is mine?

RUTH: What *part?* Why, all of it! *It's all yours.*

ANA (incredulous): All mine? The milk too? What about my brothers?

RUTH: You get strong, Ana; we'll take care of your brothers.

ANA: Oh, it is wonderful, that milk! I can drink it all? See, I will drink a little and then a little more. Makes it last, see?

RUTH: I wish the children in my schoolroom could see this, Bill. Doesn't it almost make you cry, to see actual starvation?

BILL: Well, almost. I know what you mean anyway.

DR. SMITH: When you young folks have a minute I want to talk to you.

BILL: Sure. Just as soon as the kid gets through eating.

NARRATOR: Dr. Smith took Ruth and Bill to the hospital porch with its lovely white arches.

DR. SMITH: You seem very much interested in conditions here. Perhaps you'd like to visit our Rural Life Community Center tomorrow? It is called Yuquiyu (Joo-kee-joo) and it is just out of Fajardo (Fah-hardo) where the church is. We manufacture ceramics and bamboo products. It's a coöperative which teaches farming, too.

BILL: I for one would like to see anything that makes for more decent living here! Your hospital is a diamond in the mud.

DR. SMITH: Yes, it's a miracle. We have sixty beds, four American doctors and seven graduate nurses. We just do the best we can. Last year we had 2,500 patients in this hospital, and 13,000 clinic patients.

BILL (whimsically): Your *poor best,* I suppose?

DR. SMITH: That's right. I don't think the churches at home have a mental picture of conditions here at all.

BILL: What do you say, Ruth? Let's go on to Pohn-thay (Ponce) to the hotel. Then tomorrow I'll get a drive-yourself car, and we'll come back and get a conducted tour of this Rural Community Center place.

RUTH: I'd like to. I'll say goodnight to Ana, and then we'll go.

NARRATOR: So then the next morning our tourists, Bill and Ruth, appeared in Bill's car at Joo-kee-joo! They could see several boys learning to hoe at the model farm. They went into the building where one of the staff was expecting them.

MR. GREEN: My name is Green. I'm the handicraft teacher. Would you like to see some of our products? All made by Co-op members!

RUTH: What beautiful pottery! And bamboo tablemats and handbags!

BILL: Fishpoles too. Quite a bookcase over there. I could use that in my office.

RUTH (aside): By the way, Bill, what *do* you do for a living?

BILL: Well, I guess I'm a *sort* of a teacher.

MR. GREEN: We have a Puerto Rican artist who designs needlework, and the women make it for the tourist trade. The self-respect of these people has shot up high in so little time. They don't have hookworm disease since they attended the clinic, and they are delighted. They love to help themselves.

BILL: Did I see a Co-op grocery store?

MR. GREEN: You did. And did you see our Clinic?

BILL: We saw a square box with a porch.

MR. GREEN: That's our Dispensary. Don't you speak lightly of that box. It was built by volunteers in this community. Ryder holds clinics in it. There's a school, too, made of concrete blocks. You can see initials on these blocks of the boys who

helped their fathers pour the concrete. I wish our Social Worker were around, but he's out calling.

BILL: This is quite different from life in the slums or on the mud flats.

PUERTO RICAN WORKER: Yes, eet ees. You onderstan only ting mek dis pless, ees love to Jisus Chrise?

BILL (embarrassed): Well, er—well! I suppose so.

MR. GREEN: Julio means that this is not an economic policy without a soul: it is founded on definite religion and love for these people, who respond 100%.

RUTH: That is evident. Oh, dear, I hate to rush away but we have to go back to Ryder now. Our publico ran down a child yesterday.

MR. GREEN: Yes, I heard. The Marcano girl.

RUTH: News travels fast in Puerto Rico!

MR. GREEN (laughing): I also heard that Ana would gladly lay down her life for an American angel lady.

BILL: Oh, what a red face! She doesn't know where to look, Mr. Green. Thank you for showing us the plant.

NARRATOR: That noon while Ruth gave Ana her lunch tray, Bill sat watching.

ANA: Beautiful lady, you know how to read?

RUTH: Yes, don't you? Can't you read Spanish?

ANA: No, I never went to school. You could show me a few words? On a paper? In English?

BILL: Here's a pencil and paper.

ANA: Right in his pocket! He carries it!

RUTH: This is a chair. See, Ana? I will draw a picture.

ANA (eagerly, pointing to words): Thees ees a chair.

RUTH: Good girl. I will print "This is a man."

ANA (points to Bill and laughs): Thees ees a man.

RUTH: This is a bed.

ANA: Thees ees a bed. Oh, I am reading! I am reading! I am reading English!

RUTH (dazed): Look, Bill. I'm teaching reading to a child who *asked* me to teach her. Maybe I'm a teacher after all. I love this! Say, why did you say you were a *sort* of a teacher?

BILL: Well, I've left there, but I did teach Greek in Stebbins College.

RUTH: Oh, you did, did you? Too bad I didn't ask you before. I'm too self-centered.

BILL: Yes, I can see that. The careless tourist, spending money on knick-knacks like Ana Marcano.

DR. SMITH: I seem to be an eavesdropper, but could the "Angel Lady" come and help me for a minute? I have a child here crying so hard I can't tell what ails her. You seem to have a way with kids.

RUTH: Sure. But let me say something to Bill first. Bill, you'll think I'm a sentimental dope. But in all my life I never had so much real happiness packed into one day. We saw filth and poverty, but all the time I was thinking unconsciously that I was going to help fix it. I'm a fast worker. I make up my mind quick like a fox. I started with $2,000 and I can earn enough to live on. I'm going to stay in Puerto Rico, Bill.

BILL: Well, my dear girl, this is not a good time for me to tell you, either. We have an eavesdropper; he says so himself! But I'm a fast worker, too! I really came here to teach Greek in the Evangelical Seminary in Rio Piedras. So I always intended to stay anyway.

DR. SMITH: Hot dog! I should say, Praise be to God, and I mean it!

NARRATOR: Late that night, Dr. Smith sat thinking. Suddenly he laughed aloud.

DR. SMITH: I think before long the overworked Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua will have another ceremony to perform.

THE END

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP PUERTO RICO?

The gift of practical service for our friends in Puerto Rico should be an important part in the program. We have provided for it in each of the five program samples.

There are three possibilities in the way of service:

1. The Gift of Things.

Miss Marjorie Martin, of the Friendly Service Department, has worked out for us a list of articles needed for the hospital, for the churches, for the community center. Some of them could be brought as shower gifts (soap, for instance, or vitamins). This will interest the children, we think, and the recreation ideas will interest the young people. Other articles could be *made* by the women's groups either at their regular meeting or at a special work party such as the "Sewing Bee." The pictures and scrap book materials could be collected by the Sunday school, and they also might have a work party for the making of Scrap Books for Puerto Rico.

2. Special Funds.

The work in Puerto Rico is always needing equipment for which there is no place in the budget. We have appended a list of things needed which a money gift could supply. This, however, would be over and above the regular giving of the church for Our Christian World Mission and would not count on the apportionment even though it would meet a real need.

3. Increased Giving to Our Christian World Mission.

In this case dedicate the increase for the needs in Puerto Rico.

We have appended sample lists of what your money will do. As Mrs. Hook says in her Toast, "Let's give Puerto Rico a break."

1. The Gift of Things

For Ryder Memorial Hospital:

Bed Gowns
Girls', light weight, colored, size 6, 8, 10
Women's light weight, long, open front, size 32, 34, 36

Bedside Slippers (May be knitted, crocheted, or made of terry cloth, washable)
Children's—size 2, 3, 4
Men's, small
Women's, small

Housecoats, Women's, small sizes—light weight material, light colors or flower designs
Bath robes, boys', sizes 8 to 10
Pajamas, boys', sizes—10 to 16 yrs. light weight materials (seersucker)
Men's, sizes—A, B, C, light weight materials (seersucker)

Bandages, Gauze, 2″ x 10 yds., and 3″ x 10 yds.
Gauze wipes & sponges 2″ x 2″ and 4″ x 4″—may be made according to Red Cross specifications—wrap in clean muslin for sterilizing purposes

Uniforms for kitchen—heavy white cotton, butcher type, size 34, 36, 38, 40
Bib aprons, white Indianhead or similar material

Work aprons—colored kitchen reg. size, and large size
Layettes—should be made of light weight materials, no flannel garments. Gauze diapers are less heating than flannelette. Each layette should include one dainty dress and gertrude as this may be the only pretty thing the mother will have for her new baby

Mail any of the above to:

Miss Betty McDonald
Ryder Memorial Hospital
Humacao, Puerto Rico

For the Churches:

Pictures, especially Bible pictures

Some of the lovely Elsie Anna Wood prints from Pilgrim Press (3 for $1.00)

Leftover Pilgrim Series Bible story books, kindergarten and primary

Mail these gifts to:

Rev. Joseph Bevilacqua
Ryder Memorial Hospital
Humacao, Puerto Rico

For Children:

Vitamin tablets and powdered milk

Cakes of Ivory Soap

Scrapbooks for children at the Clinic

Shoes, small sizes, are very much needed

Mail the above gifts to:

Miss Betty McDonald
Ryder Memorial Hospital
Humacao, Puerto Rico

For the Community Center:

Recreational equipment of all kinds such as ping pong balls and paddles, Badminton, indoor baseballs and bats, Chinese Checkers

Mail to Ivan Chatham, Yuquiyu, Puerto Rico

USED CLOTHING IN GOOD CONDITION, small sizes, light weight materials, and shoes in good condition, are always urgently needed in Puerto Rico. Send to any of the above addresses. Regular American Parcel Postage is sufficient.

2. Equipment for which Money is Needed

For the hospital, clinic and nurses home, a radio and record player, electric clocks, a portable X-ray, scales for weighing patients, furniture (metal chairs and rockers)

For the Community Center, equipment for the dining room

FOR NONE OF THE ABOVE IS THERE MONEY IN THE BUDGET

3. What Your Gift for Our Christian World Mission Will Do

$1.00 is our share in the cost of 32 patients in a clinic for a week. The actual cost is $16.00 but Puerto Ricans also help.

5.00 is our share in the cost of one week in hospital for a Puerto Rican patient. The actual cost is about $70. The rest they manage in Puerto Rico.

10.00 is our share in the cost of training a practical nurse for one week.

14.00 is our share in maintaining for one month a church or chapel which has not yet come to self-support.

20.00 is our share in providing for a month the services of a trained American social worker at Ryder Hospital.

25.00 is our share in providing the services of an American doctor on the staff of the hospital for a month. Here again this is 1/16 of the total cost. Puerto Rico sources provide the rest.

38.00 provides the cost of the full program at Yuquiyu for one day.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

New Friends for Nena. By McDowell. $2.00 cloth, $1.25 paper.
A delightful book. The first three chapters dealing with life in Puerto Rico, the rest with Puerto Ricans in the United States. For children.

Mingo of the Merry-Go-Round. By Alice Geer Kelsey. Price: paper, 90 cents, cloth, $1.50.
A splendid story for Juniors written in 1948.

Rosita, A Little Girl of Puerto Rico. By Jeanette Perkins Brown. Price 75 cents.
One of the "Little Friendship Books" delightfully illustrated for the kindergarten age; easy to dramatize.

On Our Own Doorstep. By Frank Meade. Price: 90 cents, paper; cloth, $1.50.
This book deals with the Caribbean area, one fine chapter being on Puerto Rico—much background material for the leader.

Puerto Rican Puzzles. A pamphlet published in 1948 on the problems of Puerto Rico. Price: 50 cents.

Puerto Rico and our Congregational Christian Family. A pamphlet. 15 cents.

Our Spanish American Friends. By Ione Catton. Picture story book. 15 cents.

Table Mats of Puerto Rico. Contains an excellent outline map showing our work there, attractively decorated, black and white. Price: 1½ cents each.

From the "Home Board Institutions" Series, prepared by the Missions Council, 2 sheets are on Ryder Memorial Hospital, Puerto Rico, and Yuquiyu Rural Life Community Center (free).

How to Make a Diorama of a Puerto Rican Scene (free).

A Filmstrip "We Are All One" (free).
This deals with our whole Spanish American work, 28 frames, on Puerto Rico.

From the Wright Studio
You can secure accessories; that is, Napkins, Puzzlemats, Program Covers, Place-cards, etc., gaily decorated. Quantities for 60 people. $2.50. For information or to order write to the Wright Studios, 5335 Ohmer Ave., Indianapolis. Payment must accompany orders.

For other materials mentioned above, order books from The Pilgrim Press, Boston and Chicago, pamphlets, etc. from the Missions Council, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass., 287 Fourth Ave., New York 10, or 19 South LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois.